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General Assembly

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Agenda item 127

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 4 April 2018

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/72/L.40)*]

72/268. Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 71/159 of 15 December 2016, entitled "Global health and foreign policy: health employment and economic growth", in which it decided to hold a high-level meeting in 2018 on the fight against tuberculosis,

Recalling also its resolution 71/3 of 5 October 2016, entitled "Political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance", and its resolution 70/266 of 8 June 2016, entitled "Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: On the Fast Track to Accelerating the Fight against HIV and to Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030",

Recognizing that through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[1] and its Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015, Heads of State and Government made a bold commitment to ending the tuberculosis epidemic by 2030,

Recognizing also the World Health Organization End TB Strategy, endorsed by the sixty-seventh World Health Assembly, in 2014,[2]

Taking note of the *Global Tuberculosis Report 2017* of the World Health Organization,

Emphasizing that current global actions and investments fall far short of those needed to end the global tuberculosis epidemic,

Welcoming the convening of the World Health Organization First Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Tuberculosis in the Sustainable Development Era: A Multisectoral Response, held in Moscow on 16 and 17 November 2017, and taking

[1] Resolution 70/1.

[2] See World Health Organization, document WHA67/2014/REC/1, resolution 67.1.

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note with appreciation of its outcome, which forms part of the way towards the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on tuberculosis,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the options and modalities for the organization of the high-level meeting on tuberculosis convened by the President of the General Assembly,[3]

1. *Decides* that the one-day high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis convened by the President of the General Assembly shall be held in New York on the second day of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-third session, from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m., consisting of an opening segment, a plenary segment for general discussion, two multi-stakeholder panels and a brief closing segment;

2. *Also decides* that the overall theme of the high-level meeting will be "United to end tuberculosis: an urgent global response to a global epidemic";

3. *Further decides* that:

(a) The opening segment, to be held from 10.30 to 11.30 a.m., will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session, the Secretary-General, the Director General of the World Health Organization, the Chair of the Stop TB Partnership and the Chair of the World Health Organization First Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Tuberculosis in the Sustainable Development Era: A Multisectoral Response, as well as an eminent high-level champion of the fight against tuberculosis and a person affected by tuberculosis, both selected, in consultation with Member States, by the President of the General Assembly, giving due consideration to gender equity;

(b) The plenary segment, to be held from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 5.30 p.m., will comprise statements by Member States and observers of the General Assembly; a list of speakers will be established in accordance with established practices of the Assembly, and the time limits for these statements will be three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States;

4. *Decides* that the organizational arrangements for the two multi-stakeholder panels will be as follows:

(a) Two consecutive multi-stakeholder panels will be held in parallel to the plenary segment, one from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the other from 3 to 4.30 p.m.;

(b) The multi-stakeholder panels will address the following themes:

Panel 1: Accelerating comprehensive response through access to affordable prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care to end the tuberculosis epidemic, including multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis, taking into consideration co-morbidities and the linkages to relevant health challenges on each country's path towards achieving universal health coverage, taking note of and building on the efforts concerning an accountability framework to drive multisectoral action, as envisaged in the Moscow ministerial declaration;

Panel 2: Scaling up sufficient and sustainable national and international financing and implementation for service delivery, innovation and research and development to identify new diagnostics, drugs, vaccines and other prevention strategies;

(c) Each of the two multi-stakeholder panels will be co-chaired by two representatives, one from a high-tuberculosis-burden country and one from a low-tuberculosis-burden country with successful tuberculosis control programmes, to be

[3] A/72/645.

appointed by the President of the General Assembly from among the Heads of State or Government attending the high-level meeting, in consultation with the regional groups;

(d) The President of the General Assembly may invite parliamentarians, local governments, the heads or senior representatives of relevant United Nations entities, civil society, the private sector, academia, medical associations, indigenous leadership and community organizations to serve as speakers on the panels, taking into account gender equity, level of development and geographical representation;

5. *Also decides* that the closing segment by the President of the General Assembly will comprise summaries of the multi-stakeholder panels and concluding remarks by the President of the General Assembly and a statement by a person affected by tuberculosis;

6. *Further decides* that the high-level meeting shall approve a concise and action-oriented political declaration, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations, to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly for adoption by the Assembly;

7. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, with the support of the World Health Organization and the Stop TB Partnership, hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services, to organize and preside over an interactive civil society hearing, no later than July 2018, with the active participation of appropriate senior-level representatives of Member States, observers of the General Assembly, parliamentarians, representatives of local government, relevant United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invited civil society organizations, academia, medical associations and the private sector, as well as people affected by tuberculosis and broader communities, ensuring the participation and voices of women, girls and indigenous leadership as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, and also requests the President to prepare a summary of the hearing prior to the high-level meeting;

8. *Encourages* all Member States to participate in the high-level meeting, including the multi-stakeholder panels, at the highest possible level, preferably at the level of Heads of State and Government;

9. *Invites* all observers of the General Assembly to be represented at the highest possible level;

10. *Invites* the United Nations system, including funds, programmes and specialized agencies, including the World Health Organization, regional commissions and relevant envoys of the Secretary-General, as well as the Stop TB Partnership, hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services, UNITAID, hosted by the World Health Organization, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as appropriate, to participate in the high-level meeting, as appropriate, and urges them to consider initiatives in support of the preparatory process and the meeting, particularly with regard to sharing good practices, challenges and lessons learned from tuberculosis-related responses;

11. *Invites* non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council with relevant expertise to register with the Secretariat to attend the meeting;

12. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of other relevant representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector with expertise in tuberculosis who may attend the high-level meeting and participate in the interactive

civil society hearing and the multi-stakeholder panels, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, with due regard to the meaningful participation of women, and to submit the list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis;[4]

13. *Invites* members of civil society, especially those representing communities and those in vulnerable situations heavily affected by tuberculosis, to make a fundamental contribution to the process in terms of raising awareness of the issues faced by the poorest and most marginalized populations of the world;

14. *Encourages* Member States to consider including in their national delegations representatives such as parliamentarians, mayors and governors of cities and states with a high burden of tuberculosis, representatives of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, indigenous leadership, community organizations and faith-based organizations, academia, philanthropic foundations, the private sector and networks representing people affected by tuberculosis, with due regard to gender equity;

15. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting.

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[4] The list of proposed as well as final names will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. Where a name is objected to, the objecting Member State will, on a voluntary basis, make known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly the general basis of its objections and the Office will share any information received with any Member State upon its request.